

FIRE SWEEPS PARIS, TEXAS

More Than 1.000 of the Texts City is a Mass of Ruins. Property Loss Seven Millions—Three Lives

One of the most disastrous conflagrations in the history of the country visited the fair city of Paris, Texas, Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, and thousands of people are homeless of its 20,000 population.

Estimates of the property loss are from ten to fifteen million dollars. The assessed valuation of the property facing the public square before the fire was \$20,000,000, and all there is left is the ground upon which the buildings stood. In addition to the loss on the square, between 90 and 100 blocks in the residence section of the city were destroyed, one-half of which was in the wealthiest portion of the town.

Two persons are known to be dead and one missing. Captain John Strub, a prominent property owner, lost his life, and Bob Huddle is dead. Miss Lizzie Carpenter, 76 years old, is missing.

No fire has ever occurred in Texas or in the Southwest to equal the one that has just swept over Paris. Looking north and northeast from the Texas Pacific depot, over an area where had stood the most costly homes in Paris, only a few scattering residences can be seen. The ground is covered with debris, electric light and telephone wires and poles. The streets were cleared late Wednesday afternoon to admit vehicles passing through the square. Ropes and wires have been stretched around this portion of the burned district for five blocks.

Among the principal buildings destroyed are the post office building, Federal building; Baptist, Episcopal, Central Presbyterian and the Christian churches; Merrick Hotel, city hall, fire station, high school, arena, court house and jail. Both the morning and afternoon newspaper plants were destroyed, and all equipment. Each issued small hand bills Wednesday afternoon, containing brief notices of the loss.

The Dallas fire department rushed a company to the scene of the fire and did much toward stopping the spread of the flames.

Household goods moved into the streets to escape the flames were all licked up as the fire raged and advanced to distances unforeseen and unexpected. Hundreds of families are sleeping in back yards and in the streets. Groceries are exceedingly scarce, and much hardship is being experienced. All the cities of the section are extending all aid possible, and the unfortunates are being cared for in every way as fast as arrangements can be made to get assistance to them.

SUIT FOR DAMAGE TO LAND

The case of E. Haggard against G. B. Hall and D. F. Brown, in which plaintiff asks damages in the sum of \$4,700.00, went to the jury Wednesday night. The plaintiff charges that defendants by diverting the channel of a portion of Brown Creek caused much of his land to be overflowed and greatly damaged. The case was bitterly contested, lasting part of Tuesday and all day Wednesday. Hatchett & Ferguson appeared for the defendants and McPherrin & Cochran for the plaintiff.

\$500 VERDICT AGAINST FRISCO

L. M. Bergen, suing the Frisco Railway for \$3,000.00, was awarded a verdict of \$500 Tuesday. Bergen alleged that while employed on a bridge gang his hand was mangled. His attorneys were Utterback & MacDonald. McPherrin & Cochran appeared for the railway company.

Wednesday night the case went to the jury and they returned a verdict in favor of the defendants.

TYPEWRITERS CHEAP

I have on hand several new typewriters, never unboxed, which I wish to turn into money, and will make unheard-of prices to anyone interested. The stock includes four Model 9 Oliverts, one Model 7 Olivert, four portable Coronas, and Model 10 Royal. E. M. Evans, Durant. (adv)

SAY WE NEED RAIN

Farmers are complaining about the need of rain. Corn and oats planted, and of which the acreage is very large, will be damaged, they say, unless we get rain within a week. The winds of the past few days have added to the need of rain. Reports coming from Central and Western Oklahoma say that rain is badly needed there.

OIL AND GAS LEASES

The Weekly News has printed and offers for sale an ample supply of Oil and Gas Leases, known as "Form 88", prices 25c per dozen, \$1.75 per 100. Mailed to any address in any quantity, charges prepaid, upon receipt of remittance to cover. The Weekly News, Durant, Ok. (adv)

McKINNEY, TEXAS, HAS A BIG FIRE

The entire plant of the McKinney (Texas) Compress Company, with 2,500 bales of cotton, three residences, and eight freight cars, as well as a number of small outbuildings, were destroyed by fire Tuesday afternoon. The total loss is estimated at more than \$200,000, the value of the cotton lost being \$125,000, fully covered by insurance. The plant of the compress company was valued at \$45,000, and was insured for \$20,000. Residence property was partly insured. The fire originated from the explosion of an oil stove in one of the residences and the flames were rapidly spread by the high wind that prevailed at the time.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS ARE ON THE INCREASE

Judging by the increased number of deeds being recorded in the office of the county clerk, the farm and city property business is picking up. Cler McCreary reports that deeds recorded and being recorded now are considerably more in number than for the same period of time last year. The number of chattel mortgages filed, he says, is about the same as last spring. It was believed that the new usury law, which caused the discontinuation of small loans by many banks, would cause a decrease in the chattel mortgages.

TWO WELLS ARE BEING DRILLED

Drill on Kiersey Lease Struck Water and Quicksand at 90 Feet—Will Start Drilling on the Thompson Lease Next Saturday.

Two new oil wells are being drilled in this community, and it is freely predicted by oil men that either oil or gas will be found. The rapidity with which scouts are taking leases on stuff near and far from both locations indicates that the oil men feel there is likely to be something doing. Lease considerations are running all the way from twenty-five cents to five dollars per acre.

Work has been in progress for several days on the well on the Kiersey lease, a mile and a quarter to the northwest of the town of Kiersey. At ninety feet the drill struck a large sheet of water and quicksand which the most modern type of baler was unable to lower an inch in the hole. An extra heavy casing was lowered into the hole and the water and sand shut out, when the drilling was resumed. The driller, Mr. Chapman, anticipates finding still another and larger strata of quicksand and water at between four and five hundred feet, and expressed surprise at finding it at the shallow depth of ninety feet.

Work on the well on the Leo Thompson place, two miles south of this city, will commence Saturday. The rig is up and all the machinery and casing are on the ground. The boiler was fired up Tuesday to see that everything was in good order.

CHILD RUN DOWN BY AUTOMOBILE

Thelma Perkinson Struck and Dragged by Auto Driven by H. A. Slaton of Mead—Wrenched Arm is Worst Injury Suffered by the Child.

A Ford automobile driven by H. A. Slaton, of Mead, struck little Thelma Perkinson, while crossing Main street at Seventh Avenue Wednesday afternoon, knocking her down and dragging her some distance before the car could be stopped. The wheels did not pass over her body, but she was badly bruised and cut by the accident, and suffered torn tendons in the right arm. Had the accident not occurred at a very soft and sandy piece of road, more serious injuries would probably have been inflicted.

Mr. Slaton and his family were returning to their home at Mead, going out Main street. The little child, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Will Perkinson, had started across the street to the little store conducted by her grandfather, and the persons who witnessed the accident say that the driver of the car did not sound his horn, but that he did yell at the child. Slaton is a one armed man, and this fact probably made the handling of the car more difficult for him.

It was thought at first that the child had been killed, breath having been knocked out of her body by the force of the blow; but she was quickly revived, and is now believed to be out of danger. However, the injury to the arm is quite serious.

BIG COTTON FIRE AT HOBART, OKLA.

One of the largest cotton fires in the history of the State occurred at Hobart, the county seat of Kiowa County, in western Oklahoma, last Tuesday, when 7,000 bales of cotton were consumed by the flames. Besides the loss of the cotton, the plant of the Interstate Compress Company was also eaten up by the flames; also fourteen freight cars. Seventy-five farmers who had from one to twelve bales each at the compress, had no insurance on their property. All other losers were protected. The flames broke out in the power room, and in addition to destroying the plant, spread to near-by houses, many of which were reduced to ruins.

MILITIA INSPECTED

Lieutenant Murchison was here Friday and inspected the local militia company, reporting the company to be in good condition. There are about ninety enlisted men and officers in the company, and the inspecting official says that with a month's work the company could be gotten ready for active service. Twenty-eight new rifles will be placed with the company.

It is almost humiliating to note that while Missourians are sitting on the lid of Congress there are several Texans under it.

THE TROUBLE IN MEXICO

Two Thousand Carranza Soldiers are Said to Have Joined Villa's Bandits—Censorship is Extended and Much Uneasiness is Felt.

From Columbus, New Mexico, the rumor has been given circulation that Luis Herrera, until recently the Carranza military governor of Chihuahua, has renounced the Carranza cause and announced in favor of Villa, taking the field of western Chihuahua with 2,000 troops.

The same rumor, although unconfirmed, is rife in El Paso. The report comes there from two sources, but no officials would say that the advice had gotten beyond the rumor stage. It was pointed out, however, that more than one half of the Chihuahua garrison were former Villa followers, and it was conceded that such an addition to the Villa forces might have some effect upon the bandit's plans and immediate future actions.

General Bell has extended the censorship to make it as thorough and rigorous as possible, saying that he did not intend news of his preparations to be given out in advance of their execution.

Wires of communication with the Pershing expedition now in Mexico are out of commission, and the wireless service is also useless. For this reason no word has been received at least none has been given out) as to the progress of the soldiers in Mexico.

There is a belief that the Carranza forces gained a victory over the bandits at Namiquipa; but considerable doubt exists in official sources as to this, for the reason that had there been such a victory the event would have been loudly acclaimed by the de facto government.

Undisguised anxiety is shown over the report of the disaffection of the Chihuahua garrison, and there is an increased feeling of uncertainty over the possible conditions confronting the expedition "somewhere in Mexico." If the Herrera report is true, there is much fear that it means the beginning of more turning of Mexican soldiers from Carranza to Villa, and in considering that it must be borne in mind that, according to the understanding at El Paso, there are substantial Carranza forces stationed in positions that would permit a flank movement upon the American expedition.

There are persistent and unpleasant rumors of treachery on the part of Carranza soldiers and of connivance between them and the bandit chieftain. There is also an altered attitude on the part of the Mexicans at Juarez that is considered significant, showing that the natives are not only restless but dissatisfied.

An unofficial report says that Villa made his escape after the Namiquipa encounter with the Carranza troops, and is supposed to be at San Miguel about fifteen miles away, at the foot of the Sierra Madre mountains. The report further says that General Pershing has two columns in close pursuit, and that he used a Mexican Northwestern train to carry part of his men to a point near the Cumbre tunnel, so he could try to head Villa off at San Miguel.

Carranza officials deny emphatically the revolt of Herrera at Chihuahua. However, should the report be true, the Mexican problem will have become one of the most serious imports to the government of the United States, and the Villa part of the affair may resolve itself into merely an "incident" of the conditions likely to follow further disaffection and disaffection on the part of the various sorts of soldiers of the Mexican republic.

There is no doubt but that the feeling generally of the populace of the country is antagonistic to all "gringos," and just what form of expression this feeling will take in the immediate future is purely a matter of conjecture.

The United States military authorities are making all possible preparations for eventualities, the completeness of which will hardly be realized by the country until after the thing is settled.

ABOUT OUR SCHOOLS

The report of State Superintendent Wilson, just issued, contains a tabulated statement, showing the number of months taught, the number of school buildings, and their cost, for each county. It shows that the average term of school taught in this county is 6.6 months, that we have 98 school houses, the total value of which is \$259,443.06.

MANY OIL AND GAS LEASES ARE FILED

The office of the county clerk reports that a great number of oil and gas leases are being filed, covering hundreds and hundreds of pieces of land in various parts of the county. Lease considerations run all the way from twenty-five cents to five dollars per acre.

BEGINNING
MONDAY,
MARCH 27

DURANT Mercantile Co
DURANT, OKLA.
GOOD THINGS TO WEAR

LASTING
ALL
WEEK

Spring Fashion Display

Of Men and Boys' Wear

YOU are cordially invited to see these authentic Spring styles for Men, Young Men and Boys.

Beginning Monday and Lasting All Week

Come, bring the boys with you we have many new clothes to show you

From

The House of Kuppenheimer
Art-Craft and Wooley Boy Clothes.

NEW SPRING HATS from Stetson, NoName and Grace-Townsend
EDWIN CLAPP, REYNOLDS and TILT OXFORDS are here, and it's time you were looking them up.

You'll also be interested in our

NEW SPRING NECKWEAR,
SHIRTS, COLLARS, BELTS,
UNDERWEAR AND HOSE

Our Men and Boy Toggery

is the most comprehensive we have ever shown. Come, bring your friends with you.

Spring Millinery and
Ready-to-wear Opening

MONDAY AND TUESDAY,
MARCH 27TH AND 28TH

—so bring your wife and her friends. This is a year to see early and buy early.

